

Title: **Use of an Arbitration System for Price Determination in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Fisheries**

Author(s): Mark Fina

Abstract: In the summer of 2005, fishing began under a novel management program in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. To protect processor and community interests, the program requires harvesters to land their catch with processors having historic participation in the fisheries. This requirement effectively prevents processor competition for landings as a price determinant in the fisheries. As a substitute for market competition, the program established a controversial arbitration system for resolving price disputes. This paper examines the performance of the arbitration system under the program to date. The paper also examines whether some of the issues with the arbitration system might be correctable either through modification of the arbitration system or without regulatory intervention.